



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Indiana School Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Directors and Teachers

**FROM:** Dorothy Winchester, Office of Program Development

**DATE:** October 18, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Updated Indiana Academic Standards for Social Studies

The updated Indiana Academic Standards for Social Studies were approved unanimously by Indiana's Education Roundtable on September 20, 2007 and by the Indiana State Board of Education on October 3, 2007. Work on the standards began in 2006 with a review of the 2001 standards by content experts and Indiana teachers. Early drafts were reviewed by the public, state museums and state professional organizations.

The standards were updated for all grades K-12 and cover history, economics, geography and government. These standards were reviewed by national content experts for content, rigor, specificity and comprehensiveness. They have been praised for "setting the bar high, which will both challenge teachers and students to fully meet them" (Center for Civic Education) and for "providing opportunities to engage students in disciplinary thinking at an early age" (National Council for History Education). These standards also "provide students an opportunity to acquire geographic skills that are essential to America's economic prosperity and national security in today's global environment." (National Geographic Society).

Social Studies Standards updates include:

- Grades K – 8 indicators for Individuals, Society, and Culture have been integrated into the history, government, geography and economics standards.
- Sixth and seventh grade study of regions of the world incorporate the modern era.
- Historical thinking skills are included in high school U.S. History and World History as a separate standard.
- Improved focus to match the content themes in K-8 social studies.

Questions related to the updated social studies standards should be directed to Curriculum Specialists Nancy Wolfe ([nwolve@doe.state.in.us](mailto:nwolve@doe.state.in.us)) or Steve Griffin ([sgriffin@doe.state.in.us](mailto:sgriffin@doe.state.in.us)).